TITLE

ABSTRACT

The locknut is adapted for axial engagement of a threaded shaft having an axis and an outer thread. The locknut has properties for limiting a tightening torque on the shaft to a predetermined torque value. In one aspect, a first member is adapted for engagement by a user and rotation about the shaft. A second member having inner threads is disposed in a rotatable, coaxial relationship with the first member. At least one deflection wall is included in the first member and is provided with properties for deflecting outwardly in response to a radial force. At least one deflecting element is included in the second member and is disposed to exert a radial force against the deflection wall. The deflecting element has a generally engaged relationship with the deflection wall at a torque level not greater than the predetermined torque to maintain the inner threads of the second member in an engaged relationship with the first member. The deflecting element has a generally disengaged relationship with the deflection wall at a torque level greater than the predetermined torque to maintain the inner threads of the second member in a generally disengaged relationship with the first member. In another aspect, the locknut has an outer wall configured for engagement by the user and an inner wall. Portions of the inner wall define an inner screw thread configured to engage the outer screw thread of the shaft. In a first position, the portions of the inner wall have a first position wherein the inner threads engage the outer threads to facilitate tightening the locknut on the shaft, and a second position wherein the inner threads disengage the outer threads at a predetermined torque to inhibit any further tightening of the locknut on the shaft.